Lake Nipigon Integrated Resource Management Plan

Preliminary Draft

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

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Minister

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FOREWORD

The Ministry of Natural Resources has a primary responsibility for the management of the Province's natural resources, in particular those related to resource development and outdoor recreation. This plan will serve as a design for integrating the Ministry's programs on Lake Nipigon.

The Nipigon District Land Use Guidelines (D.L.U.G.) which were approved in 1983, outlined Lake Nipigon as a separate land use area with Crown land recreation as its primary purpose. D.L.U.G. also outlined a number of broad guidelines for this lake, and recommended that a management plan be prepared.

This preliminary draft of a Lake Nipigon Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRM Plan) was compiled with regard for public comment to the Draft Policy and Options. The public is again asked to review and comment on this plan before a final plan is compiled and approved. All comments should be directed to the District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 970, Nipigon, Ontario by October 30, 1987.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Integrated Resource Management

The definition of Integrated Resource Management as approved by the Executive Management Committee of the Ministry of Natural Resources is as folllows:

> Integrated Resource Mangement is the co-ordination of resource management programs and activities so that long term benefits are optimized and conflicts between programs are minimized. Benefits are defined by corporately approved program targets and by District Land Use Guidelines.

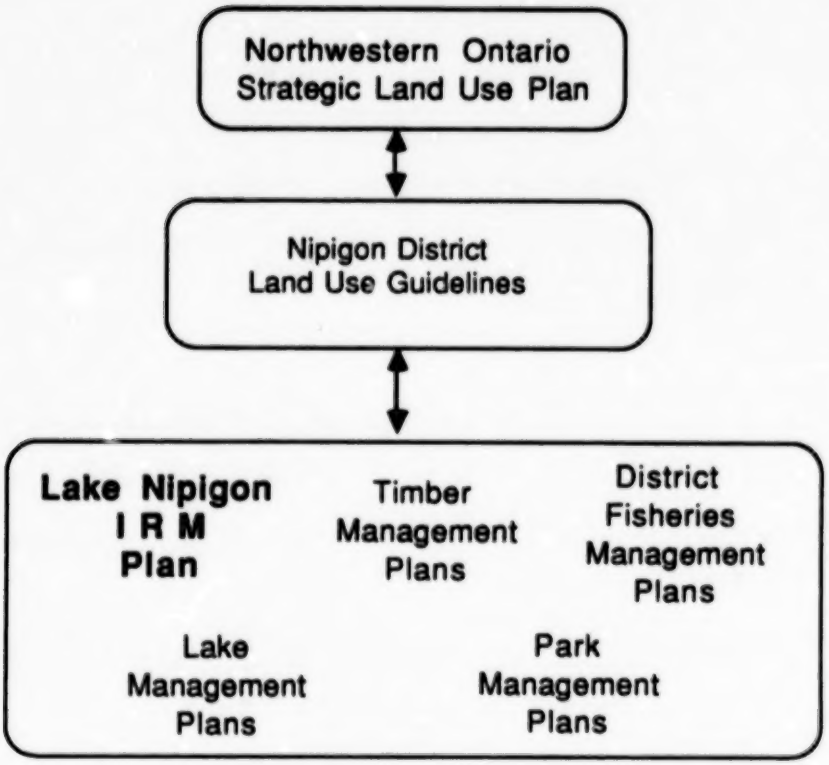
This plan will therefore attempt to co-ordinate all the resource management programs of this Ministry for the geographic area of Lake Nipigon.

Figure 1 illustrates how this IRM plan for Lake Nipigon fits into the planning hierarchy of the MNR. Objectives and targets from higher order plans (Northwestern Ontario SLUP and Nipigon DLUG) give direction to lower order resource management plans. Strong linkages exist among the program resource management plans as a result of cross referencing and feedback.

While this IRM plan is on the same level as other resource management plans, it is in some ways similar to the District Land Use Guidelines, as it is refining policy for a part of the District.

FIGURE 1

PLANNING HIERARCHY



↔ Indicates direction and feedback between planning levels

B. Terms of Reference

i) Delineation of the Study Area:

The Lake Nipigon Study Area is identified as Area 7 in the Nipigon District Land Use Guidelines. The intensive study area for which detailed data has been collected and land use decisions will be made, includes Lake Nipigon, it's islands and the mainland within 300 metres of the lake's shoreline.

Indian Reserve lands around Lake Nipigon are not part of the study area. Although the Province of Ontario does not have jurisdiction over reserve lands, it is hoped that the activities on these Reserves would be compatible with uses on adjoining Crown lands and waters.

The five provincial parks around the lake will not be considered as part of the planning area. The Nipigon District Land Use Guidelines, park management plans and interim management statements currently determine the use of these lands. The park management planning process will finalize the land use decisions for these areas.

ii) Goal for Lake Nipigon:

The Ministry of Natural Resources' goal for Lake Nipigon is to retain the existing mix of uses on an equal priority level.

The planning area will provide recreational opportunities and resource products for the continuous social and economic benefit of local residents and the people of Ontario.

Development proposals must not conflict with the existing nature of the lake, and must not degrade the quality of the lake and its resources.

iii) Objectives of this Plan:

The objectives of this Integrated Resource Management Plan are:

(i) To provide recreational opportunities on Crown lands and waters for day and extended uses such as fishing, hunting, camping, and recreational boating.

(ii) To provide a variety of natural resource products toward the achievement of the District's targets, while maintaining sustained resource levels.

(iii) To contribute toward the tourism economy of Northern Ontario.

(iv) To identify and protect rare, endangered and sensitive provincial resources and features.

(iv) The Planning Process:

The Integrated Resource Management (I.R.M.) Plan for Lake Nipigon will maintain a regional and provincial perspective, while at the same time addressing the needs of the local and traditional users of the Lake Nipigon area. The plan has been developed in four phases.

Phase I - Background Information, available for public review: Spring, 1986

Phase II - Draft Policy and Optional Plans Report, available for public review: Spring, 1986

Phase III - Draft Lake Nipigon I.R.M. Plan released for public review: Fall, 1987

Phase IV - Approved Plan released for public review: Winter 1987.

The production of the Background Information document involved the collection of detailed information concerning the present use, capability and potential of the land and water resources of the Lake Nipigon area. The Background Information formed the foundation on which the resource policies for the Lake (as specified in the Nipigon DLUG) were tested, optional plans developed (Phase II) and upon which this draft I.R.M. Plan has evolved (Phase III).

Phase II involved the formulation of options: Option 1 stressed preservation of the lake, while Option 2 provided for limited development. These optional plans were made available for public comment in May, 1986. Both options illustrated means in which the resources of the Lake Nipigon area can be allocated to meet the Ministry's objectives.

As a result of public consultation, a final plan has been prepared. It combines features from both options. The final plan will be submitted to the Regional Director for approval as the Integrated Resource Management Plan for Lake Nipigon. The final document will serve as direction for integrating the Ministry of Natural Resources' programs on Lake Nipigon.

This draft plan has been prepared by the District Planner and the District Planning Committee and approved for release by the District Manager. The latter is comprised of District Program Supervisors and other technical support staff.

v) The Review and Amendment Process

As new data becomes available, or as new policies develop, amendments to the plan will become necessary. It is not intended that all targets in the plan will be achieved immediately. The intent is to aim for this level of achievement over the next thirteen years: by the year 2000.

Targets and strategies from this plan will be subject to revision based on such factors as changes in government policy, new or refined resource information and significant changes to land use in other planning documents. To accommodate changes, this plan may be reviewed every ten years or more often, if required. The public may request an amendment to the plan by applying to the District Manager. Prior to making any major amendments, the Ministry of Natural Resources will provide an opportunity for public consultation to determine the suitability of the proposed amendment.

C. Overview of the Lake

Lake Nipigon is the largest inland lake contained wholly within Ontario, with a perimeter of 1,050 kilometers and an overall surface area of 4,480 square kilometers (448,000 hectares). The lake remains relatively undeveloped, with very limited public access. There are, as yet, no roads traversing the region to the north of Lake Nipigon. The lake is located approximately 170 kilometers north-east of Thunder Bay and approximately 50 kilometers north of the town of Nipigon. It is situated between 88 degrees and 89 degrees west longitude and between 49 degrees and 15 minutes and 50 degrees 15 minutes north latitude. (Refer to Figures 2 and 3 for the location of Lake Nipigon).

Lying at an elevation of 260 metres above sea level (a.s.l.) and 75 metres above the level of Lake Superior, the water level of Lake Nipigon is controlled by Ontario Hydro's dams on the Nipigon River. The lake has a maximum recorded depth of 137 metres (450 feet). The waters of Lake Nipigon comprise 90 percent of the lake's area, leaving an island area of 360 square kilometers (35,964 hectares).

Lake Nipigon is slightly oblong in shape, measuring about 100 kilometers by 70 kilometers, but has a rather irregular shoreline with several large bays and jutting peninsulas. The bays, when open and exposed are rocky and sandy, but where extended and protected, tend to become muddy with an approach to marshy conditions. Lake Nipigon contains approximately 500 islands, of which 55 have an area greater than or equal to 25 hectares (.1 square mile). The total perimeter of all the islands on the lake is approximately 1,000 kilometres. Kelvin, Shakespeare, Geikie, Murchison, and Logan Islands are the largest, each exceeding 1,400 hectares in size.

There are three communities located on the shores of Lake Nipigon: MacDiarmid and Orient Bay on the southeast shore, and Gull River Indian Reserve #55 on the west shore. Rocky Bay Indian Reserve #1 form part of the settlement at MacDiarmid. Two other Indian Reserves, Jackfish Island IR 57 and McIntyre Bay IR 54 are occupied seasonally.

Approximately 12 kilometers of Lake Nipigon east shore fall within the Municipality of Beardmore. Summer residences are located south of the Namewaminikan River, at South Bay, McIntyre Bay IR, and at a few island locations on the lake.

The major industry on the lake today is the commercial fishing operation which was established in 1917 as a means of meeting the increased food demand during World War I. Following peak production years during the 1920's and 1930's when harvests exceeded 1,500,000 kgs., the catch declined until it stabilized during the 1950's at approximately 500,000 kgs. where it has remained to the present.

Figure 2: LOCATION OF LAKE NIPIGON

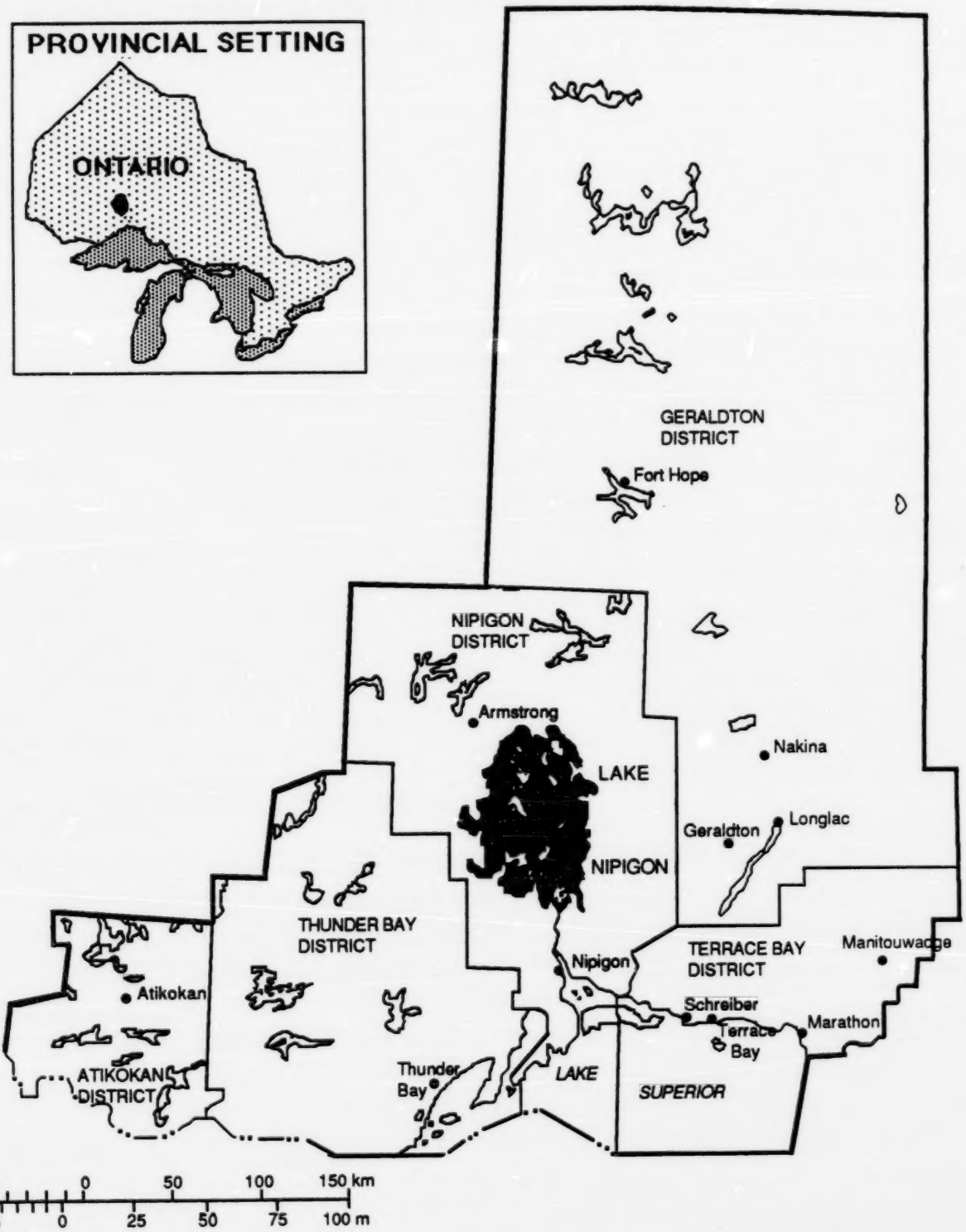


FIGURE 3
THE STUDY AREA

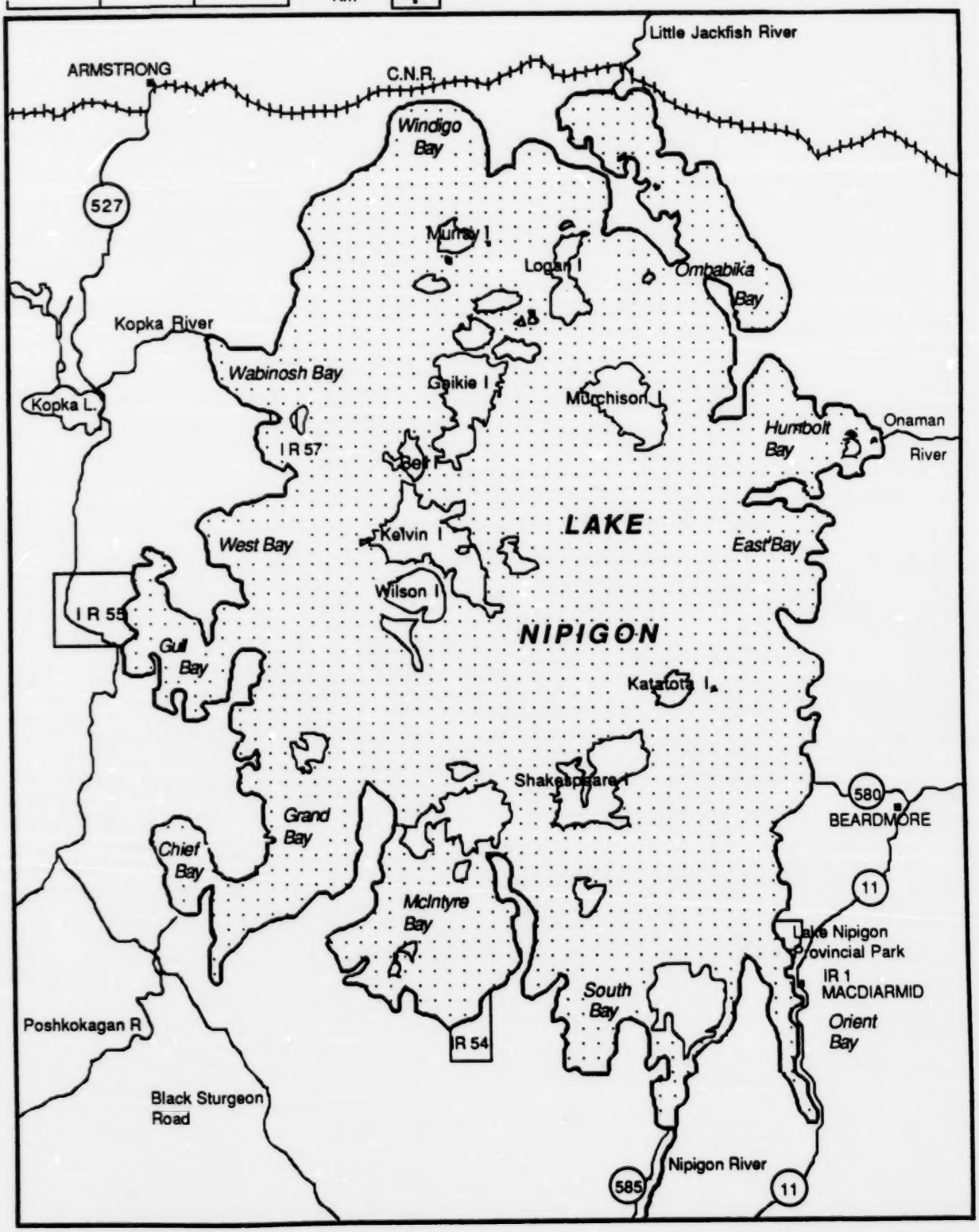
LAKE NIPIGON INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Study Area Boundry (Approximate)

1:600 000 (Approximately)

0 10 20 30 Km

N



Sport fishing in the Lake Nipigon area has been renowned since the late 1800's. Angling continues to be very popular in the area today especially for brook and lake trout, walleye and northern pike. There are five tourist establishments in the Orient Bay area, most of which offer cruiser services. There is also a fishing resort on Gull Bay.

The forest industry has also played an important role in the Lake Nipigon watershed. Throughout the 1900's, log drives were common on almost every major tributary of Lake Nipigon (Blackwater, Wabinosh, Ombabika, Gull, Namewanminikan rivers, etc.). The logs were boomed on Lake Nipigon and subsequently transported to local pulpmills and sawmills by way of the railway or the Nipigon River. Hauling by truck and rail ultimately put an end to these log drives in 1972.

Some of the islands in the northern half of Lake Nipigon support woodland caribou during the spring and summer months. This is a species whose fragile habitat has become increasingly threatened over the last century. Other significant and sensitive areas on the lake include: identified archeological and historical sites, double crested cormorant colonies, fish spawning grounds, and bald eagle and osprey nesting sites.

D. Public Input to Draft Policy and Options

A Draft Policy and Options package was taken to the public for comment in April and May of 1986. A total of 58 written responses was received and considered in the preparation of this draft plan.

A summary of the public participation program may be found in Appendix 1. A detailed listing of issues raised and the draft plan response are contained in Appendix 2.

Public interest was shown in the following areas: cottaging; tourism; timber harvesting; access to Lake Nipigon; wildlife; fisheries; fire; Little Jackfish River Project; Lake Nipigon Parkway concept and native issues.

The recommendations of this draft plan are based on sound resource management principles. Public input, social and economic development are factors the plan had regard for in preparing these recommendations.

II. RESOURCE POLICIES FOR LAKE NIPIGON

A. Access

i) Objective: To permit road access to several locations around the lake and to enable optimal recreational use of Lake Nipigon for the enjoyment and benefit of local residents and tourists.

ii) Strategy:

In order to maintain the undisturbed nature of Lake Nipigon, this plan recommends that new permanent roads will only be constructed within 300 metres of the Lake Nipigon shoreline for tourism, cottaging and access points. Presently maintained roads may continue to be maintained.

Depending on the completion of a Field Environmental Planning Procedure which will examine demand, impact costs and location, a new access road may be built to Lake Nipigon in the northwest section of the lake in order to give the residents of the Armstrong area access to the lake. New access roads may also be permitted for potential tourist establishments and cottage lots.

Contingent upon funding, maintenance of access points may once again be reinstated.

iii) Discussion:

There are currently 18 locations of access to Lake Nipigon (refer to Figure 4). These are as follows:

- Pine Portage
- Orient Bay (2)
- MacDiarmid (town and MNR base)
- Lake Nipigon Provincial Park
- Poplar Lodge Park
- Humboldt Bay (2)
- Onaman River
- Ombabika River landing
- Kopka River
- Gull Bay (2)
- Chief Bay
- South Bay (2)
- McIntyre Bay

B. Commercial Fur

i) Objective: To promote the full utilization of the fur bearer resource, consistent with humane trapping practices and the maintenance of healthy populations and species diversity.

ii) Target: To harvest 25 beaver/year from the islands of Lake Nipigon.

iii) Strategy:

Due to the size of Lake Nipigon and the remoteness of its islands, present beaver harvest is far below assigned quotas. Trappers will therefore be encouraged by M.N.R. to use trapline resources more fully in keeping with permitted quota.

C. Cottaging

i) Objective: To provide cottage lots to the public on the mainland of Lake Nipigon in order to supply a variety of cottage opportunities in Nipigon District.

ii) Strategy:

A field survey of the south-east shore of the lake (Poplar Point to South Bay) using the factors of short road access and suitable site conditions will determine the location and number of cottage lots for Lake Nipigon. The south-east shore of the lake was selected as it is the best accessed and would contain development in one corner of the lake.

iii) Discussion:

The District's cottaging target can presently be met in the Black Sturgeon area as D.L.U.G. recommends. However, in response to continued requests for more cottages on Lake Nipigon, this plan recommends some additional cottages be made available in other locations.

FIGURE 4

ACCESS TO LAKE NIPIGON

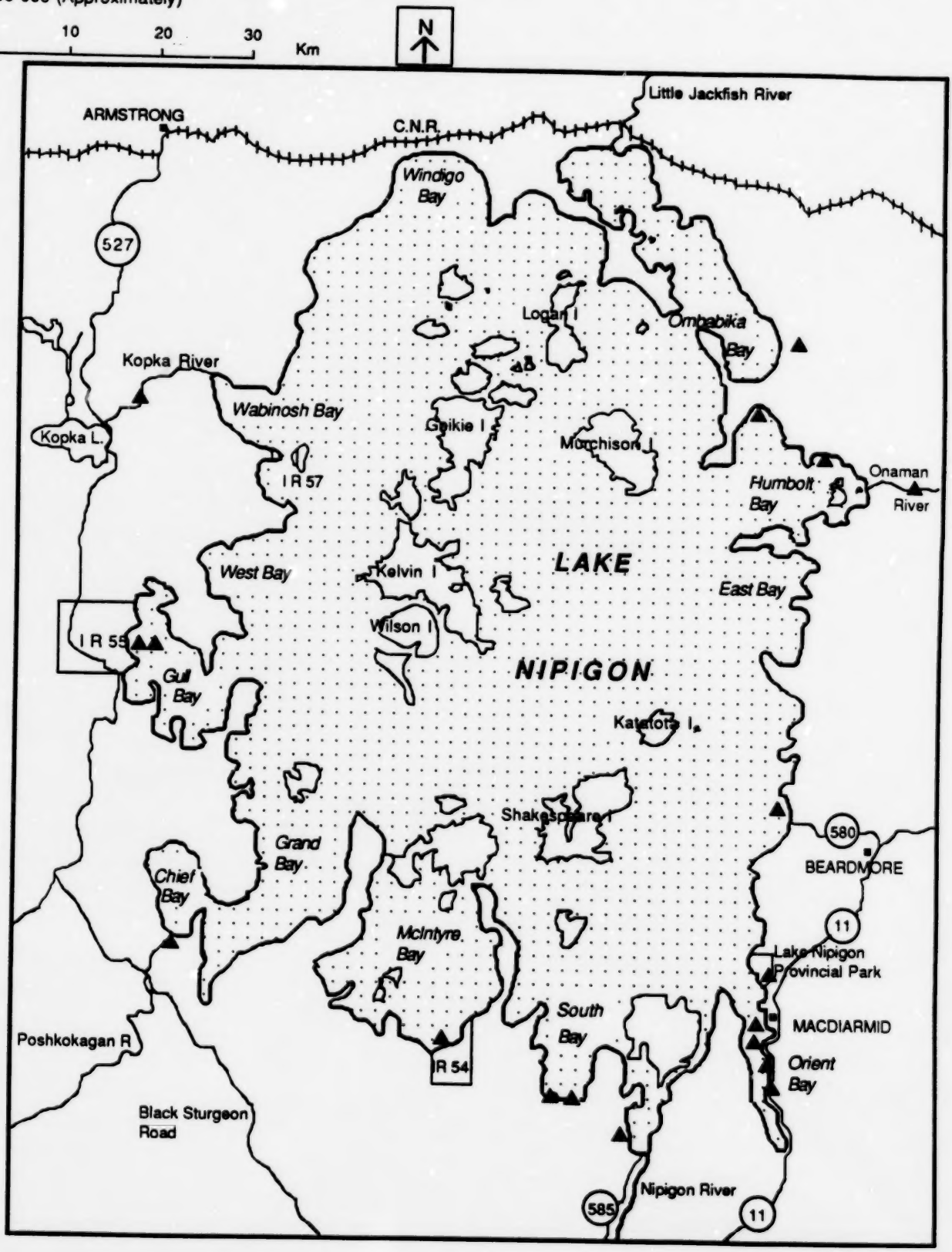
LAKE NIPIGON INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1:600 000 (Approximately)

0 10 20 30 Km

Study Area Boundry (Approximate)

Access Location



D. Crown Land Recreation

i) Objectives:

- to provide for recreational use by residents (eg. fishing, camping, boating, etc.)
- to increase economic benefits derived from non-resident recreational use of Crown land.

ii) Target: Quantifiable Crown land recreation targets have not been developed.

iii) Strategy:

Strategies have been identified within a Crown land recreation policy for northern Ontario and will be phased in gradually starting in 1988.

Basic principles which guide the Crown land recreation policy are:

- to allocate scarce or less plentiful resources for non-resident recreational use in such a way as to extract maximum economic benefits;
- to minimize competition between resident users and non-resident users in areas where because of limited resources or congestion, the quality of the experience is unsatisfactory.

iv) Discussion:

Crown land recreation on Lake Nipigon has traditionally meant sport fishing, boating and camping. While low water temperatures and the size of the lake have restricted use, possibilities exist for new activities such as photography, sea kayaking and sight-seeing.

E. Fire Management

Strategy:

To identify resource values in and around Lake Nipigon which require varying levels of protection from forest fires. Fire management objectives for the three zones which comprise the Lake Nipigon Planning area correspond to those specified in the Area Plan for Fire Management - North Central Region, MNR, 1986. Refer to Figure 5 for Fire Management Zones.

EXTENSIVE FIRE PROTECTION ZONE

Zone Description:

Extensive fire protection means that fire starts will be evaluated and monitored. Escaped fire situation analysis will be carried out and a response initiated, appropriate to that particular fire situation.

The "Extensive Fire Protection" zone in the Planning Area consists of the Lake Nipigon islands and three mainland peninsulas (McIntyre, Three Mount and North Peninsulas). This zone historically has a low combination of fire incidence and hazard potential. Fire Management programs will not be emphasized in this zone.

Objective:

The Fire Management Objective for the islands and three peninsulas is to assess and monitor wildfire development and to provide a response if there is a threat to human safety and property values so as to minimize loss of life and property values.

Discussion:

All wildfires that threaten life and property will receive a response designed to save life and minimize property damage. This response could include fire attack, property protection and/or evacuation. Aggressive suppression or management will be directed to minimize potential site-specific losses. While human life and property values are less concentrated here than in other areas, no less consideration must be given to their protection.

MEASURED FIRE PROTECTION ZONE

Zone Description:

The "Measured Fire Protection" zone includes all those remaining mainland areas (excluding the Intensive zone and the McIntyre, Three Mount and North Peninsulas) which lie within 300 metres of the shoreline of Lake Nipigon and Jackfish Island Indian Reserve 57. Although no timber allocations exist in this zone, these areas contribute toward MNR objectives for the provision of recreation and tourism opportunities.

Objective:

The Fire Management Objective for this zone is to protect human life, to minimize loss of property values due to wildfire, and to protect tourism, recreation and forest resources on the mainland shores of Lake Nipigon.

Discussion:

Wildfires in this zone will receive aggressive initial attack. Escalated suppression activities for these wildfires which do not respond to initial attack will be dependent upon the results of an analysis of potential fire spread. This analysis will be carried out and a response initiated appropriate to that particular fire situation. When fire suppression efforts must be priorized, activities will be directed to higher value sites.

Fire management programs such as hazard reduction, prevention, detection and use of prescribed burns will be emphasized in this zone.

FIGURE 5

FIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES

LAKE NIPIGON INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1:600 000 (Approximately)

0 10 20 30 Km

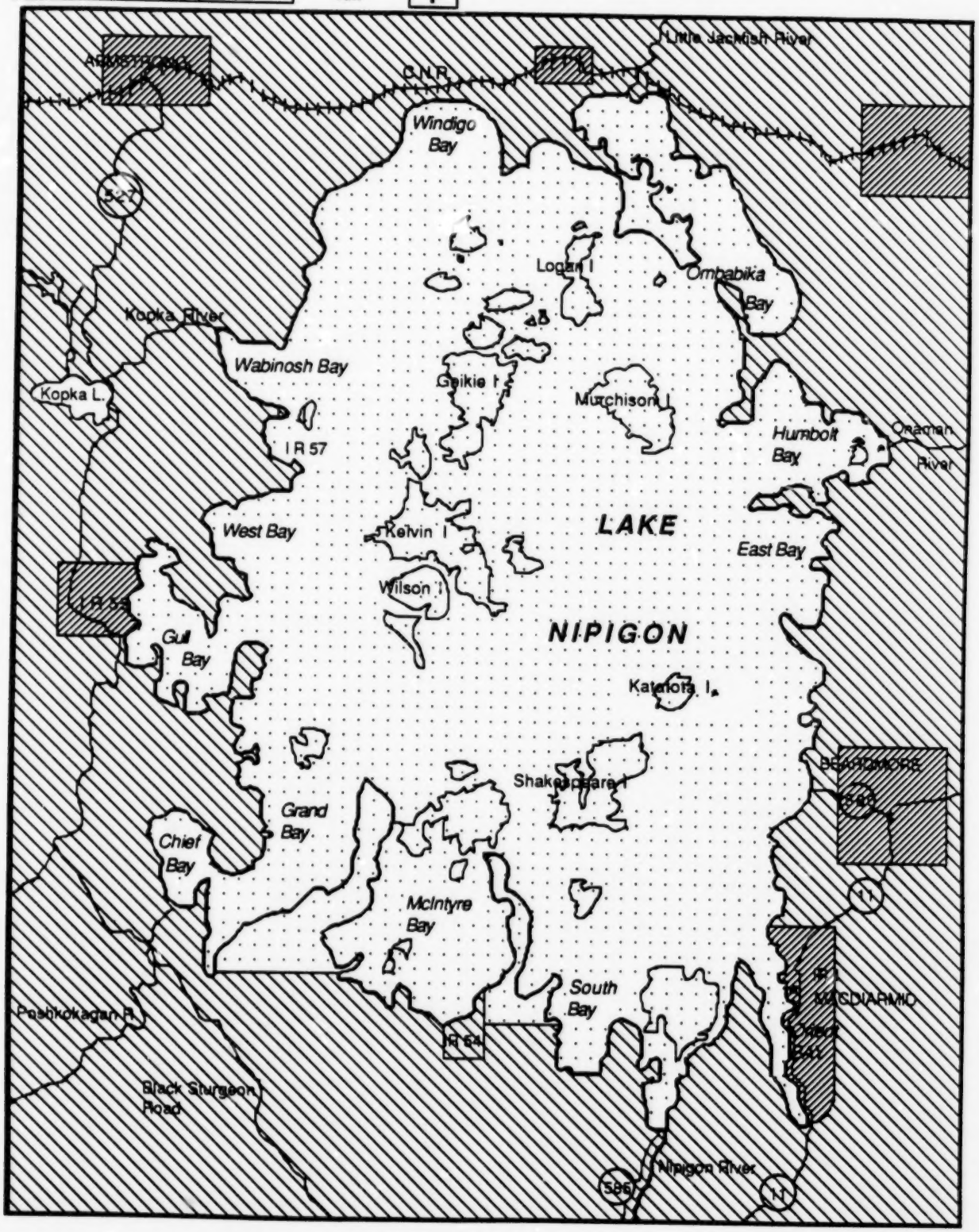
N

Study Area Boundry (Approximate)

Extensive Fire Protection

Measured Fire Protectior

Intensive Fire Protection



INTENSIVE FIRE PROTECTION ZONE

Zone Description:

The "Intensive Fire Protection" zone in the planning area includes the immediate area around towns and settlements which are not covered under municipal fire agreements. This zone includes Gull Bay, MacDiarmid, Orient Bay, Armstrong and Ferland (refer to Figure 5).

All wildfires in this zone have the potential to cause major social disruption. These areas contain the greatest densities of population, private property and public works in the planning area.

Objective:

The Fire Management objective for these settled areas is to minimize the threat from wildfire to human safety, property and resource values.

Discussion:

All wildfires within Intensive Fire Zone will receive aggressive and sustained attack to ensure minimum wildfire size. Management programs (such as hazard reduction, prevention, public detection and reporting of fires) will be emphasized in this zone. An aggresive prevention program will continue to be directed toward limiting the number of fire starts. Wildfires which do occur in this zone will be treated as a suppression priority.

F. Fisheries

The fisheries resource is managed for both recreational and commercial uses.

i) Broad Objective:

To protect, rehabilitate, enhance and maintain Lake Nipigon's fish community and environment to provide an optimum contribution of fish, fishing opportunities and associated benefits to society.

ii) Targets:

- to harvest from Lake Nipigon by the year 2000, 510,000 kg/year. It comprises 494,900 kg (primarily non-sport fish species) to the commercial fishery and 15,200 kg to the sport fishery. The bait fish industry will be encouraged to meet the demand;
- to harvest 0.08 kg of lake trout per hectare per year, or 36,000 kg/year. Of this total 26,700 kg will be allocated to commercial quotas, while 9,300 kg will be available for sport fishermen;

iii) Broad Strategies (Principles):

The direction provided by this objective can be refined to produce several general fisheries management principles for Lake Nipigon. These principles advocate:

- developing a greater knowledge of fish populations and fish habitat conditions and increasing the resource data base for more effective management;
- maintaining and, where necessary, rehabilitating aquatic environments;
- monitoring fish communities for signs of stress and implementing corrective strategies;
- developing and maintaining healthy, balanced fish communities based on stable, self-sustaining stocks;

- allocating the allowable harvest equitably among user groups to provide the optimum mix of benefits to the residents of Ontario and to reduce conflicting uses of the fisheries resource;
- increasing public awareness and understanding of fisheries management techniques and issues and encouraging public involvement in management decisions and activities;
- enforcing current fisheries regulations consistently, fairly and effectively;
- protecting spawning areas, nursery grounds and other sensitive fisheries sites from harmful impacts;
- co-operating with other fisheries-related agencies and individuals to ensure a compatible and efficient approach to fisheries management.

iv) Detailed Strategies:

The objective and target for commercial fish will be achieved through the following strategies:

- Monitor and control commercial lake trout harvest on lake Nipigon by:
    - holding regular meetings with the commercial fishermen to discuss the status of the lake trout fishery and problems in management and enforcement;
    - encouraging harvest of alternate species;
    - increasing enforcement of quotas to deter overharvesting.
- Stabilize the lake trout population in Lake Nipigon by:
    - managing the commercial lake trout fishery through quota revisions, area closures and season variations as necessary to allow for long-term sustainable harvests.
- Reduce the incidental catch of brook trout and other salmonids by:
    - soliciting co-operation and discussion with commercial fishermen to investigate the incidental harvest of brook trout and determine whether potential near-shore gillnet restrictions are required.

- Monitor and control commercial harvests of other species (e.g. walleye, whitefish) by:
    - increasing dialogue with commercial fishermen on management problems and potential solutions;
    - increasing enforcement contacts with commercial fishermen;
    - reviewing and providing input to any plans (O.M.N.R. or external) with the potential to damage fish habitat;
    - increasing monitoring and enforcement of ongoing operations which could threaten habitat;
    - educating and informing the public and resource users about habitat protection laws and policies;
    - encouraging the public to report infractions or potential problems;
    - collecting more information on sensitive sites within the District in order to apply protective measures.
- Rehabilitate fish habitat by:
    - identifying sites where habitat degradation has occurred and recommend rehabilitative measures;
    - encouraging resource users to rehabilitate areas where their operation has been damaging;
    - promoting community projects (C.F.I.P.) to rehabilitate degraded habitat or improve existing habitat.
- Direct new study efforts towards problem areas by:
    - identifying lake trout stocks and movements in Lake Nipigon through tagging studies;
    - determining the spawning success and early life history of lake trout in Lake Nipigon.
- Improve commercial fish data base for Nipigon District by:
    - encouraging private and educational groups to carry out studies in Nipigon District;
    - continuing to encourage more co-operation between the O.M.N.R. and commercial fishermen in data collection and sharing;

    - increasing man-hours devoted to the collection and analysis of commercial fish data.
- Increase public awareness of the role of the commercial fishery in fisheries management by:
    - educating and informing the public on commercial fish practices through slide show presentations to specific groups and artilces in area newspapers;
    - holding joint meetings with commercial fishermen and anglers to exchange ideas and opinions.
- Reduce actual or potential conflicts between sport and commercial fishermen in the District by:
    - increasing enforcement on both user groups to deter overhavesting of mutually desirable species;
    - investigating the potential for increasing fishing opportunities where possible through stocking, rehabilitation or creation of new access;
    - encouraging commercial harvest of alternate species and the utilization of impounding gear.

The objective and sport fish target will be acheived through the following strategies:

- Improve access into other waterbodies in the District by:
    - creating new access points or renew old ones through community work projects (eg. C.F.I.P.) in areas where additional sport fishing pressure can be sustained.
- Protect and increase the brook trout population in Lake Nipigon by:
    - investigating the status of the brook trout population with the intention of implementing harvest reduction techniques (eg. trophy fishery) after discussions with specific interest groups;
    - encouraging catch-and-release and fishing for other species;

- increasing enforcement to deter overlimits by anglers;
- monitoring houseboat or charter boat businesses to determine their effect on the fishery;
- developing a strategy for stocking Lake Nipigon strain brook trout, including an analysis of the potential requirements for a hatchery;
- increasing efforts to enhance alternate brook trout and lake trout fishing elsewhere in the District;
- constructing artificial spawning beds for brook trout stocks;
- establishing an inland refuge lake for Lake Nipigon strain brook trout.

- Make better use of available data by:
  - encouraging more co-operation between the O.M.N.R. and anglers in data collection;
  - encouraging angling clubs and other interest groups to become formally involved in data collection by setting up a voluntary creel program;
  - increasing effort devoted to collection and analysis of sport fishing data;
  - increasing the program of lake surveys.

v) Discussion:

The total fish yield of Lake Nipigon is estimated to be 716,800 kg per year (see Table 1). This supports a commercial fish industry of 13 licences with an annual harvest of 494,000 kg. No increase in the number of licences is planned, however quotas may be adjusted in response to changes in population of fish communities or new knowledge in the science of fish management.

In contrast the sport fishery on Lake Nipigon is much smaller. The 1987 sport fish harvest is estimated to be 5,150 kg (see

Table 1), with brook and lake trout, walleye and northern pike being the most popular species. Demand for sport fish is anticipated to greatly increase by the year 2000 to 15,200 kg per year. A breakdown by species of this target is shown on Table 2. The largest increase will be in the lake trout component. Intensive management tactics will be implemented to maintain and increase brook trout numbers.

Table 1
Estimate of Fish Yield on Lake Nipigon
(1987 Figures)

Species	Total Current Allowable Yield (kg/year)	Commercial Fish Quotas (kg.year)	Estimated Sport Fish Harvest (kg.year)
Brook trout	1,000	N/A	1,000
Lake trout	27,000[1]	26,700	3,000
Walleye	73,740	70,900	2,800
Northern Pike	37,000	32,300	1,000
Whitefish	257,000	256,500	50
Other[2]	321,060	108,500	
TOTAL	**716,800**	**494,900**	**7,850**

[1] Some stocks of Lake Trout appear to be overharvested. It is anticipated that strateiges outlined in the District Fisheries Management Plan will allow the Lake Trout population to increase to the point where an annual harvest of 36,000 kg/yr could be sustained.

[2] This figure is made up of species such as tullibee, sauger, mullet, perch, menominee and burbot. No commercial quotas are set for them, but they are harvested commercially. They are not generally desired by sport fishermen.

Note: There is an estimated subsistence fishery on Lake Nipigon of 6,020 kg/year (602 natives x 10 kg/person/year).

Table 2
Year 2000 Sport Fish Target for Lake Nipigon
by Species

Species	Kg/Year
Brook trout	1,000
Lake trout	9,300
Walleye	3,600
Northern Pike	1,200
Whitefish	100
TOTAL	**15,200**

Source: Nipigon District Fisheries Management Plan

G. Forest Management

i) Objective: Forest management operations will be carried on within 300 metres of Lake Nipigon shoreline or its islands only in support of wildlife habitat improvement.

ii) Target: Timber harvesting in the Lake Nipigon Planning Area will make a minimal contribution to the district's timber target, but may allow the achievement of the wildlife target for Wildlife Management Unit 20.

iii) Discussion:

Timber harvesting is one of the most effective techniques to improve habitat for wildlife. This plan proposes to allow timber harvesting to take place on the islands and mainland of Lake Nipigon when required as wildlife habitat improvement technique. Provincial guidelines for the protection of tourism values, fish habitat and moose habitat will be followed. See Appendix III for a further explanation of these guildelines.

As no timber management planning exercise will be carried out for the islands of Lake Nipigon, this I.R.M. plan will be the document that states the broad policy for timber management. More detailed harvest plans will be prepared as part of a wildlife habitat management plan.

H. Mining

The overall intent of the mineral management policy as administered by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is to provide for an optimum continuous contribution to the economy by mineral resource industries through orderly development and utilization of available mineral resources consistent with sound environmental practices.

a) Metallic and Non-Metallic Minerals

i) Objective: The Ministry of Natural Resources will keep lands open for exploration and extraction consistent with the land use intent for the area.

ii) Target: No quantitative target exists for this program.

iii) Strategy:

- the Ministries of Natural Resources and Northern Development and Mines will co-operate to ensure that lands with high and moderate potential remain open for mineral exploration wherever possible and that withdrawal from staking be kept to a minimum.

iv) Discussion:

The Beardmore area is part of a high mineral potential Greenstone Belt. Exploration for gold here has been intensive, with three past producing mines recording over one million ounces of gold. The potential for future development does exist in this part of the lake.

b) Mineral Aggregate

i) Objective: Mineral Aggregate extraction will not be permitted within the 300 meter shoreline of Lake Nipigon. Sand and gravel pits may be permitted on the islands of Lake Nipigon only where material is necessary to supply a construction purpose on the same island and where extraction will not detrimentally affect natural and cultural resources and the social environment.

ii) Target: A target has not been set for mineral aggregate production since a detailed resource inventory and demand projection for the Nipigon District is not yet available.

iii) Strategy:

- permits for mineral aggregate extraction will not be issued on the mainland within the 300 meter shoreline of Lake Nipigon;
- permits for sand and gravel pits may be issued for islands where material will be used to supply a construction purpose located on that island and will be planned to minimize disturbance to natural and cultural resources and the social environment;
- areas of significant mineral aggregate potential on the islands will be identified and maintained by encouraging compatible uses which would not preclude their eventual extraction.

iv) Discussion:

Mineral aggregates (sand, gravel and crushed stone), provide the bulk of the raw materials essential to the construction industry, road construction and maintenance. As there are few communities in the vicinity of Lake Nipigon, the demand for aggregate is very low. The high cost of transportation also makes Lake Nipigon an unattractive source of aggregate for more distant communities.

Where material is necessary to supply a construction activity within the 300 meter shoreline of Lake Nipigon, material can be transported from outside of the planning area. However, it may not be feasible to transport material to islands in the lake to supply construction located there. Because of this, limited extraction will be permitted on islands to supply construction on the same island. Strict controls will be enforced to preserve aesthetic and recreational values.

c) Peat

i) Objective: To identify significant area of peat and maintain their availability for exploration and possible future extraction on the mainland of Lake Nipigon.

ii) Target: There is no specific target assigned for peat production.

iii) Discussion:

Peat consists of dead and partly decomposed plant matter that has accumulated in places, in a wet environment such as bogs or fens. No known peat deposits exist in the Planning Area, however exploration may continue on the mainland only.

I. Provincial Parks

There are four Provincial Parks (Lake Nipigon, Livingstone Point, Kabitotikwia River and West Bay) and one candidate park (Windigo Bay) on the shores of Lake Nipigon. Since a separate planning system exists for provincial parks, it was decided that these five areas would be excluded from the Lake Nipigon Planning exercise.

J. Tourism

i) Objective: To provide a continuous contribution to the economy of the Lake Nipigon area from tourism, while ensuring that the sustaining capacity of Lake Nipigon is not exceeded and that provisions are made for outdoor recreation for local users.

ii) Strategy:

- additional cruiser operators will be permitted if attached to a new lodge development and if fishery yields permit;
- M.N.R. will not dispose of Crown lands for the establishment of new cruiser operators unless the above conditions are met;
- Houseboat rental units, because of their potential fishery impact will be restricted in the same way;

- As a new tourism thrust for Lake Nipigon, the Ministries of Tourism and Recreation and Natural Resources will encourage the development of two high quality lodges and seek ways to allow that development to occur with minimal impact on the resource, within a two year time frame. Methods available to reduce the impacts of lodge development are the District Fisheries Management Plan strategies and tactics for Lake Nipigon, the potential location for any lodge development and corporate ventures with commercial fishermen and cruiser operators. One lodge would be smaller and based on the fishery; the other would be a larger, full service lodge providing dining, conference and meeting facilities and possibly having a cruiser service attached;
- Potential sites for the proposed lodges are High Hill Harbour (large lodge), Chief Bay (large or small lodge) or Humboldt Bay (small lodge). Other locations will be reviewed on a case by case basis;

iii) Discussion:

Table 3 lists the existing tourist facilities on Lake Nipigon. They provide opportunities mainly for fishing and limited sight seeing. Some tourist operators provide guiding services for moose and bear hunters on the mainland shores of Lake Nipigon. A ban on big game hunting is currently in effect for the islands. A primitive weapons selective moose hunting season will be implemented in Wildlife Management Unit 20.

TABLE 3: COMMERCIAL TOURISM FACILITIES
ON LAKE NIPIGON

Sandy's Cruiser Service (Coveyduck's)
Nighthawk Cruiser Service (Carroll's)
Taisey's Cruiser Service and Cabins
McCollum's Reflection Lake Cabins and Cruiser Service
Lake Nipigon Cruiser Service (Odorizzi's)
Royal Windsor Trailer Park (and cottages)
Poplar Lodge Park (Twp. of Beardmore campground)
Nipigon Marina Ltd. Charter Service (Renaud's)
Gull Bay Lodge

Those facilities in the area which utilize Lake Nipigon, but are not situated on the lake:

Mud River Traders and Outfitters (Pikitigushi River)
Onaman River Resort (cottages and campground)
Canadian Outward Bound Wilderness School
(Black Sturgeon Lake)

K. Wildlife Management

a) Broad Objective: To manage the wildlife in the planning area; to protect and where possible, enhance wildlife habitat and populations through input into other resource management plans; to identify and protect rare and endangered species of wildlife and their habitat; to improve our base of knowledge to more effectively manage wildlife; to encourage non-consumptive wildlife viewing opportunities.

b) Moose:

i) Objective: The major objective for moose management is to protect and enhance the moose resource and provide opportunities for recreation (viewing and hunting) for local residents and tourists.

ii) Target: To increase the moose population in Wildlife Management Unit 20 to 152 animals by the year 2000. To harvest 15 - 20 moose per year.

iii) Strategy:

- to prepare and implement a habitat improvement program designed to improve moose habitat on larger islands where there would not be a conflict with caribou;
- to remove the present ban on big game hunting on the islands of Lake Nipigon in order to allow for a primitive weapon hunt;
- to continue to monitor the moose populations through aerial surveys and hunter returns.

iv) Discussion:

At present, the forest on the islands of Lake Nipigon are mature to over-mature, which has a low capacity to maintain a moose population. A variety of methods to diversify forest age,

and thereby create more suitable habitat, could be used. These methods include prescribed burns, allowing natural fire to renew the forest, or selective cutting on specific islands.

A primitive weapons hunt on the islands would have the economic benefit of increasing tourism; could be controlled by the quota system which did not exist in 1970 when the ban was imposed; would provide a different hunting experience from pure rifle hunting (only one other unit in the Province offers a primitive weapons hunt). The present moose population estimated at 140 animals is large enough to withstand a modest sport harvest of about 15 to 20 animals.

c) Caribou

i) Objective: To manage caribou for the conservation and maintenance of species and its habitat, and recognize viewing opportunities on specific islands.

ii) Target: To protect critical habitat and travel corridors within the planning area.

iii) Strategy:

- protecting areas which are occupied by caribou from habitat deterioration or destruction.

iv) Discussion:

A population of between 100 and 135 animals is found on the Lake Nipigon islands, some of which winter near Armstrong. This represents almost one half of the documented caribou population of Nipigon District. Caribou hunting seasons have been closed in Ontario since 1929. Human settlement, overhunting, natural predation, forest fires and logging all contributed to the decline in their numbers. Viewing is one of the possible uses of caribou. The planning area is an important calving ground and refuge and should be protected from disturbance.

d) Black Bear

The present population of black bear on Lake Nipigon Islands is estimated to be very low. If the big game hunting ban is lifted, it is anticipated that few black bear will be harvested. Hunting of black bear on the mainland does and will continue to exist.

III. SUMMARY

The proposed direction for Lake Nipigon is to retain the existing mix of uses with some expansion of tourist facilities, cottaging and hunting.

The plan proposes the establishment of two new lodges, cottage lots and an access point in the Northwest part of the lake for Armstrong residents. New access roads will be built to these potential tourist lodges, cottage lots or new access point.

Current data indicates that brook trout and some currently harvested lake trout stocks are presently over stressed and may require the application of special management techniques. Strategies and tactics for enhancing and maintaining their populations will be introduced through the Nipigon District Fisheries Management Plan.

Lake Nipigon Islands, McIntyre, Three Mount and North Peninsulas will be given extensive fire protection. This means fires will be allowed to burn less they are a threat to human safety or property values. Measured fire protection will be given to the majority of the mainland. Here protection will be given to human life and property, tourism, recreation and forest resources. Settlements around the lake will receive intensive fire protection, which means aggressive and sustained attack to ensure minimum wildfire size.

IV. AMENDMENT TO THE NIPIGON DISTRICT LAND USE GUIDELINES

The proposed new guidelines for D.L.U.G. Area 7 Lake Nipigon are as follows:

As this IRM plan is refining and updating the policies of Nipigon D.L.U.G. for Area 7 (Lake Nipigon), some permitted uses have been recommended which are contrary to the originally approved guidelines. For this IRM plan to be approved, it would require an amendment to the Nipigon D.L.U.G.

Through its extensive public consultation program, this plan will have met the most important requirement of an amendment to D.L.U.G. By the time this plan is approved, the public will have had two opportunities to make input: to the draft policy and option and to the preliminary draft plan.

A) Area Description

This area includes Lake Nipigon and islands and the mainland area within 300 metres of the lake's shoreline. Present uses include Crown land recreation, tourism, sport and commercial fishing. It contains parts of the Islands Crown Management Unit, Spruce River Forest, Black Sturgeon Forest, Abitibi-Auden Management Unit and the Nipigon Crown Working Circle, Domtar Armstrong Management Unit and the Armstrong Crown Management Unit on its shoreline. There are four Indian Reserves, 1 candidate and four provincial parks around the lake. Water levels are controlled by Ontario Hydro for power generation. Both woodland caribou and moose inhabit the planning area.

B) Land Use Intent

This area will be managed to retain the existing mix of uses. They include, Crown land recreation, sport and commercial fishing, cottaging, tourism, mining and trapping. Timber operations will be permitted on the islands and within 300 metres of the lake mainland shoreline to improve wildlife habitat. New roads will be allowed if additional Crown land recreation, cottaging or tourism development takes place.

Local native and non-native people will play a large role in determining the future uses of this lake.

The tourism potential of this lake shall be developed more in the future.

The Nipigon District Fisheries Management Plan will contain specific strategies and tactics for enhancing and maintaining existing fish populations. Dependant upon access and site condition, disposition of new cottage lots will occur. New commercial tourism facilities which promote non-consumptive use of the lake's resources will be encouraged, as will facilities that target under-utilized fish stocks with surpluses.

The Lake Nipigon islands and the three peninsulas (McIntyre, Three Mount and North) will be given "extensive" fire protection, while most of the mainland areas and Jackfish Island Indian Reserve are located in the "measured" fire protection zone. In the event of fire, an escaped fire situation analysis will be carried out and a response initiated appropriate to that particular fire situation. Communities in the planning area are granted "intensive" fire protection.

Identified historical sites, bald eagle nests, double crested cormorant colonies, fish spawning grounds and caribou habitat and travel corridors will be given special consideration for protection.

C) Land Use Activity for Area No. 7 - Lake Nipigon

Activity	Acceptable Yes	Acceptable No	Guidelines
Aggregate Extraction	X		A permitted activity on the islands where material is necessary to supply construction on the same island. No extraction within 300 metres of the mainland shoreline.
Agriculture		X	No potential identified.
Bait Fishing	X		Harvest will be encouraged to meet demand.
Commercial Fishing	X		This will continue to be the largest resource extractive activity in the area. Quotas may be adjusted as a result of an ongoing assessment of populations and habitat.
Cottaging	X		New lots will be disposed of on Lake Nipigon. A more detailed plan will determine numbers of lots and exact locations.
Crown Land Recreation	X		This lake will continue to provide recreational opportunities for fishing camping and boating. It shall increase economic benefits to the province from non-resident use. A new access point may be developed in the north west section of the lake following a more detailed study. Existing access points and roads will be given a priority for maintenance.
Forestry		X	Timber operations will take place on the Lake Nipigon islands or within 300 metres of the mainland shoreline only to improve wildlife habitat. Skyline reserves may be negotiated between tourist operators and timber companies for vistas outside of the 300 metre reserve.
Hunting	X		A ban on big game hunting on the islands will be lifted. A primitive weapon hunt will be permitted for moose.

Activity	Acceptable Yes	No	Guidelines
Mining	X		Exploration and extraction will be permitted under strict guidelines to preserve the intent of the area.
Crown Land Disposition	X		Crown land will be used to stimulate economic development in the area. Land will be disposed of by regular means for tourism or cottaging development as approved by this plan.
Provincial Parks		X	No additional parks. Four parks and one candidate already exists around the lake.
Roads	X		New roads may be permitted for potential cottage access, for potential tourism development and to access the northwest section of the lake.
Rural Residential		X	
Sport Fishing	X		This will continue to be one of the main activities for Crown land users in the area. The preparation of a District Fisheries Management Plan will contain strategies for maintaining and enhancing the fishery of Lake Nipigon.
Tourism	X		Existing cruiser operations will continue. Additional cruisers will not be encouraged unless associated with lodges. Two new lodge developments will be encountered. Non-consumptive resource use proposals will be encouraged.
Trapping	X		Trappers will be encouraged to harvest 100% of quota.
Wildlife Viewing	X		Opportunities exist for viewing of large animals, such as caribou and moose, and smaller animals or birds.

Activity	Acceptable Yes	Acceptable No	Guidelines
Wild Rice Harvesting	X		At this time, no stands are known to occur in the planning area.
Urban Development		X	
Peat	X		Exploration and extraction may continue on the mainland only. No known deposits exist.

APPENDIX I:

Summary of Public Participation Program

The Draft Policy and Options for the Lake Nipigon Integrated Resource Management Plan was taken to the public in April - May of 1986. A listing of the issues raised by the public is contained in Section I C of this plan. The following is a listing of specific public contact efforts made.

a) Mailing List: in April 1986, there were 140 names on the public mailing list for this plan. On April 17, a copy of the Draft Policy and Options was mailed to everyone on the list.

b) Meetings with Interest Groups to present Draft Policy and Options:

Date	Group
April, 9, 1986	Lake Nipigon Parkway Committee
April 30, 1986	Orient Bay Cruiser Operators
May 5, 1986	Red Rock Fish and Game Club
May 6, 1986	Commercial Fishermen Lake Nipigon
May 6, 1986	Beardmore Municipal Council
May 7, 1986	Rocky Bay Band
May 8, 1986	South Bay Anglers Assoc.

c) Information Sessions to present and discuss Draft Policy and Options with the general public:

Date	Location	Number Attending
April 30 and May 1, 1986	MNR Nipigon District Office	12
May 7, 1986	Beardmore Municipal Council Chambers	24
May 13, 1986	MNR Armstrong Office	6

In all, 58 written responses were received. They are available for public review at any time at the Nipigon District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

APPENDIX II:

Issues Raised in Public Input

Introduction:

The following is a summary of issues raised during the Public Participation phase of the Lake Nipigon Integrated Resource Management plan. It was compiled from the 58 comments received during Public Input phase.

The "Draft Plan Response" is a summary of how publicly raised issues have been treated in this Plan. Input from Public participation as well as the M.N.R. Planning Team for Lake Nipigon was analysed and formed the basis of this Preliminary Draft. A summary of the public participation program, including number of participants and locations, appears in the Appendix I.

Issues:

1. Cottaging:

   Issue: There should be more cottaging opportunities made available on Lake Nipigon.

   Agree: 29 Agree with modification: 6 Disagree: 20

   In response to continued requests for more cottages on Lake Nipigon, this plan recommends some additional cottages be made available subject to more detailed study. The numbers and exact location of cottages which can be disposed of on Lake Nipigon will be determined using appropriate capacity models in order to mitigate impacts on the lake.

2. Tourism:

   Issue: More tourism facilities should be developed on Lake Nipigon.

   Agree: 19 Agree with modification: 1 Disagree: 30

   Draft Plan Response: One of the plan's objectives is to contribute to the tourism economy of Northern Ontario. While many people disagreed with an expansion of tourism facilities on Lake Nipigon, there is also some support and interest shown in the establishment of new facilities. In an effort to increase the economic diversity of the area, this plan proposes the establishment of two new lodges. For more details see Section II J. Tourism proposals which promote non-consumptive use of the lake's resources will be encouraged.

3. Cutting/Haul Roads:

Issue: No haul roads or timber harvesting should be permitted within 300 metres of the shoreline of Lake Nipigon.

Agree: 43 Agree with modification: 4 Disagree: 3

Draft Plan Response: Although a majority of respondants opposed timber harvesting within 300 metres of the shoreline, the plan recommends timber operations be carried on within the planning area (300 metres of the lake's shoreline or the islands) as a wildlife habitat improvement technique only. Concerns for vistas beyond 300 metres of Lake Nipigon will have to be addressed in individual Timber Management Plans as they are prepared.

4. Access:

Issue: There should be new access points constructed on Lake Nipigon.

Agree: 22 Agree with modification: 4 Disagree: 29

Draft Plan Response: While many people opposed additional access to Lake Nipigon in order to preserve its low development character, there is a strong local desire in the Armstrong area for some sort of access to the lake. The plan recommends that this will be the only new access point considered. Further study will be necessary to determine feasibility, cost and exact location of an access point in the Armstrong area.

Issue: Existing access points should be upgraded/maintained.

Agree: 24 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 5

Draft Plan Response: Many public respondents indicated that they would like to see improvements and better maintenance of existing access points. The access point program in Nipigon District has not been funded since 1981. To resume maintenance of these access points would be contingent upon funding allocations available or new maintenance strategies.

5. Wildlife:

Issue: Wildlife habitat on the Lake Nipigon Islands should be improved.

Agree: 12 Agree with modification: 5 Disagree: 29

Draft Plan Response: In spite of the public opposition to improving wildlife habitat, it is felt that the benefits to the moose poulation, hunting opportunities and tourism are worth carrying out this type of program.

Issue: Preservation of caribou and caribou habitat should be given higher priority.

Agree: 6 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 0

Draft Plan Response: Areas of caribou habitat have been specifically identified in the District's Sensitive Areas Report to provide them with protection.

Issue: More enforcement is needed to reduce fish and wildlife poaching on the Lake Nipigon and the islands.

Agree: 7 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 0

Draft Plan Response: Funding received as a result of the new resident angling licence has resulted in increased conservation officer time devoted to Lake Nipigon.

6. Fisheries:

Issue: Fish stocking should be undertaken on Lake Nipigon.

Agree: 14 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 0

Draft Plan Response: Fish population enhancement can occur by various means: improving habitat, decreasing exploitation or by stocking. Increased fish stocking remains a possibility on Lake Nipigon and limited stocking is ongoing. The District Fisheries Management Plan will evaluate methods of enhancing and increasing fish populations on Lake Nipigon.

Issue: The commercial fish quota should be decreased and/or the sport fish quota should be increased.

Agree: 20 Agree with modification: 1 Disagree: 4

Draft Plan Response: Current quotas are based on the best available data. Sport harvests are considered when calculating individual species quotas to ensure total harvest for both commercial and sport users remains within the maximum sustainable yield. The commercial fish quotas will continue to be adjusted as determined necessary through continued biological assessment.

Much of the perceived conflict between sport fishermen and commercial fishermen is the result of a lack of understanding among the public as to what is actually harvested by the commercial fishery. Table 1 shows that on average, 74% of the commercial target consists of whitefish and other species not desired by anglers. the remaining 26% consists of pike, walleye and lake trout, species for which the sport fish demand is already satisfied. There is no commercial fish quota for brook trout, the most desired sport fish species.

The sport fish demand is not anticipated to increase beyond 15,200 kg. per year which is the target of this plan.

7. Fire Policy:

Issue: All fires on the Lake Nipigon Islands should be suppressed.

Agree: 6 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 0

Draft Plan Response: Lake Nipigon Islands are located in the "extensive" fire protection zone which means that only human values, buildings, Jackfish Island Indian Reserve and caribou habitat will be granted a high priority with respect to forest fire suppression. All other values will receive secondary consideration to fires on the mainland, which is in the "measured" protection zone. However, because of sub-arctic type climatic conditions on Lake Nipigon (in terms of temperature, humidity, etc.) fire incidence tends to be low and it is more likely that a firestart will occur on the mainland before the islands. Communities and Indian Reserve lands in the vicinity of Lake Nipigon will receive "intensive" fire protection. (Refer to "Fire Management" in Resource Policy Section).

8. Hydrology/Little Jackfish River:

Issue: The proposed Little Jackfish River hydro-electric project will have a detrimental effect on water quality and the fishery of Lake Nipigon.

Agree: 14 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 1

Draft Plan Response: Although this issue is beyond the mandate of the Lake Nipigon I.R.M. Plan, it is noteworthy that this concern was raised by 25 percent of all respondants. However, M.N.R. plans to make input to Ontario Hydro's planning process, under the Environmental Assessment Act, particularly with regards to the impact of this project on the fishery of Lake Nipigon.

9. Lake Nipigon Parkway Concept:

Issue: The concept of a Lake Nipigon Parkway should be developed.

Agree: 6 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 1

Draft Plan Response: Again, this issue is beyond the mandate of this plan, although 10 percent of respondants felt this to be a concern for Lake Nipigon.

10. Native Issues:

Issue: More native involvement is needed with regard to planning and managing Lake Nipigon.

Agree: 7 Agree with modification: 0 Disagree: 0

Draft Plan Response: M.N.R. has always encouraged native involvement and to this end has had meetings with several status and non-status native people over the planning of this lake. M.N.R. will strive to enhance dialogue and will continue to have an "open-door" policy regarding native participation.

APPENDIX III:

Guidelines for the Protection of Identified Values in Areas of Concern

Timber management operations on Crown lands in Ontario sometimes require modification to ensure protection of other resource values. In the timber management planning exercise, a comprehensive examination of alternative modified forest practices is undertaken. This examination will require the consideration of alternative modified practices which could be employed in the particular area of concern. Guidelines for various categories of areas of concern provide information on optional modified practices which could be employed to protect particular values.

Guidelines which are used are:

- Guidelines for Moose Habitat Protection in Ontario;
- Guidelines for the Protection of Fish Habitat in Timber Management;
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Tourism Values.

APPENDIX IV:

Summary of Objective and Target Achievement

A. Summary of Objective Achievement

This plan has four broad objectives as outlined in the Terms of Reference. Three of the four objectives depend heavily on or are influenced strongly by the state of the fish population in this lake. Unfortunately, some of Lake Nipigon's desirable fish stocks are currently heavily stressed. The Nipigon District Fisheries Management Plan will address these problems and attempt to find solutions. This plan's objectives are closely tied to the success of that plan's strategies and tactics.

Specifically, the objectives will be achieved in the following ways:

Objective 1: To provide recreational opportunities on Crown land and waters for day and extended use. This plan proposes to confirm use of existing access points and access roads to be used. Also, there is the possible addition of one new road and access point in the northwest part of the lake to serve Armstrong. Additional cottages will be permitted pending the results of a more detailed plan to determine numbers and location.

Objective 2: To provide a variety of natural resource products toward the achievement of the District's targets, while maintaining sustained resource levels.

- the planning area will continue to contribute toward the district's targets for commercial, sport and bait fish and commercial fur
- it will provide opportunities for moose and bear hunting on the islands.

Objective 3: To contribute to the tourism economy of Northern Ontario

- Lake Nipigon will continue to support the seven existing cruiser operators
- MNR and MTR encourage the development of two high quality tourist establishments on the lake and to this end will prepare a perspectus outlining minimum acceptable proposals.
- MNR and MTR encourage any new tourist proposals which promote non-consumptive use of the lake's resource such as viewing of moose, caribou, cormorant, bald eagles and other wildlife.
- Tourist operators may negotiate skyline reserves with timber companies for parts of the shoreline that are important to their operations through the timber management planning process.

Objective 4: To identify and protect rare and endangered sensitive features in the study area.

- all known sensitive areas are listed in the District Sensitive Areas Report
- they are protected through input to and review of internal plans of this Ministry and external plans of other agencies
- members of the public are asked to identify any new sensitive areas to the ministry.

B. Summary of Target Achievement

The achievement of many targets for Lake Nipigon are closely dependant on the strength of major fish stocks. As better fishery information becomes available targets will be adjusted.

The plan expects to achieve all of the following targets by the year 2000:

QUANTITATIVE TARGETS:

PROGRAM	LAKE NIPIGON TARGET	% OF DISTRICT TARGET
Commercial fish	495,840 kg/yr.	66
Sport fish	15,200 kg/yr.	3.8
Moose (harvest)	20 moose/yr.	1.5
(population)	152 moose/yr.	
Trapping	25 beaver/yr.	0.7

QUALITATIVE TARGETS:

PROGRAM	STRATEGY
Crown Land Recreation	- continue to monitor the needs of Crown Land Recreationists
	- a new access point may be permitted in the northwestern part of the lake to serve the Armstrong area following the completion of a more detailed study.
Tourism	- the Ministries of Tourism & Recreation and Natural Resources are willing to consider the establishment of two new tourism facilities on Lake Nipigon if the proponent enters a Resource Use Agreement with M.N.R. in which they agree to avoid catching any brook or lake trout until populations are rehabilitated
	- strongly encourage consumptive forms of tourism
	- allow a primitive weapons moose hunting season in W.M.U. 20

PROGRAM	STRATEGY
Caribou	- identify caribou habitat and viewing opportunities
	- protect critical habitat and travel corridors from any disturbances in the planning area
Sensitive Areas	- identify and protect these features as required
Cottaging	- the number of cottages which can be disposed of on Lake Nipigon is yet to be determined, and will be calculated using appropriate capacity models.